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10 ORIENTATION--information especially likely to be needed by users of a file as a frame of reference for understanding the materials classified elsewhere; organization of the file, special coding decisions, and evaluation of the file.

GUIDE TO THE NT8 EASTERN APACHE FILE

[The NT8 Eastern Apache file contains data principally on the Athabaskan-speaking Chiricahua of southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona, but also contains some data on the closely related Mescalero who lived somewhat to the east of them in New Mexico. It does not contain any data on the Lipan or the Jicarilla, who are also considered to be Eastern Apache. The sources in the file describe the Chiricahua as they existed during the middle 19th century, just before the beginning of extensive contact and wars with the United States government. It is based principally on information gathered during the 1930's by Morris E. Opler from his oldest informants on the Mescalero Indian Reservation. During this early period, the Chiricahua were composed of nomadic bands of hunters and collectors and ranged well into Sonora and Chihuahua in northern Mexico - a pattern very different from their present-day reservation life.

The principal source in the file is 1: Opler, by a noted American ethnologist who spent a total of two full years with the Chiricahua during the 1930's and later. The source is divided into nine major parts, presenting information on childhood, maturation, the social relations of adults, folk beliefs, medical practices and shamanism, household maintenance, marital and sexual life, daily round, status and political organization, and death and eschatology. 2: Castetter and Opler discusses Chiricahua and Mescalero use of plants for food, drink and narcotic purposes. 3: Opler presents five stories related to sorcery, and 4: Opler discusses

the Chiricahua concept of supernatural power and its acquisition by man. While the NT8 Eastern Apache file is not a large one, it contains data relating to most cultural categories and should be useful for most comparative purposes. The ethnic and time foci of the file should be remembered when using the materials. There were several marking decisions made for the file. Materials referring to the major territorial bands (Eastern Chiricahua, Central Chiricahua, and Southern Chiricahua) and "tribe" have been placed in Category 619. Information on local groups and camps will be found in Category 621; relations with the U.S. government after the establishment of reservations is found in Category 657; the "attendant" in the girl's puberty ceremony and the "singer" in the same ceremony are discussed in category 793. The file was processed between 1964 and 1970.]